

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 99 wherein forming the mixture comprises mixing the pieces with water.

66. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 99 wherein forming the unitary biodegradable solid comprises forming the mixture into a predetermined shape.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 99 wherein the drying further comprises heating the mixture.

69. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 68 further comprising removing liquid water from the mixture.

70. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 69 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a unitary biodegradable solid.

71. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 68 further comprising capturing water vapor emitted while drying the mixture.

72. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 71 further comprising converting the captured water vapor to liquid water.

73. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 72 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a unitary biodegradable solid.

74. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 69 wherein the water or biodegradable binder in the mixture is obtained from the organic waste.

75. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 74 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

76. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 75 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by heating.

77. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 99 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

78. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 77 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.

79-94. (Canceled)

95. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 99 wherein the drying comprises drying the mixture to a moisture content at which it the mixture is free of odors caused by microbial activity.

96-98. (Canceled)

99. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a biodegradable solid of organic waste comprising:

providing a receiving module removably mounted to a processing module, with the receiving module having a perforated liner;

collecting organic waste by placing the organic waste in the perforated liner of the receiving module when it the receiving module is removed from the processing module;

reducing the organic waste to pieces before it the organic waste is dried by operating a reducing element located in the perforated liner of the receiving module while the receiving module is mounted to the processing module;

transferring the pieces from the receiving module to the processing module while the receiving module is mounted to the processing module by passing the pieces through the perforated liner;

mixing the pieces with a biodegradable binder to form a mixture; and

forming a unitary biodegradable solid from the mixture by drying the mixture wherein the reduced organic waste pieces are converted to a unitary biodegradable solid.

100. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 99 wherein the transferring further comprises the pieces traveling from the perforated liner of the receiving module through at least one passageway to the processing module.

101. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 100 wherein the transferring further comprises the pieces traveling to a form in the processing module.

102. (New) The process of claim 99 wherein the transferring the pieces further comprises flushing the pieces through the perforated liner.